ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a magnetic recording medium that excels in electromagnetic conversion characteristics. The magnetic recording medium has a 55 nm or less thickness magnetic layer formed on a major surface of an elongated nonmagnetic support by performing a vacuum thin film forming technique, the magnetic recording medium being slid over a magnetoresistive effect magnetic head or a giant magnetoresistive effect head to reproduce a signal, wherein an angle θ which is formed by a growth direction of magnetic particles in a columnar structure in a longitudinal cross-section of the magnetic layer and a normal to a longitudinal direction of the nonmagnetic support, satisfies the following relation:

$$\theta i - \theta f \leq 25°.$$

where θi is an angle of θ in an initial growth portion of the magnetic layer, and θf is an angle of θ in a final growth portion of the magnetic layer.